

one spoken of as being in existence in Acts 2. It is the church of (belonging to) Christ (Rom. 16:16). The Lord's church does not belong to a man, nor does it wear a man's name. Let us train up our children in such a way that they do not want to be associated with a man's work, but want to be associated with God's work, and being a part of God's body, the church (Col. 1:18, 24). It is important, for this church will one day be presented to Christ as a bride for her husband, and enter into Heaven forever (Eph. 5:27; I Cor. 15:24).

**Just As We Must Obey Parents, So We Also Must Obey God.** Just as we expect children to obey parents (Eph. 6:1-3), so also our children need to be trained to see the importance of obeying God (Rev. 22:14). In so doing, they will have a blessed life!

While the above is not an "exclusive list", the Bible contains the complete "list." As parents, our responsibility is to train up our children in the way they are supposed to go so that when they are old they will still be following that way which will lead them to Heaven.

### **What If I As A Parent Do Not Know These Things?**

The answer to this question is found in the title of our study. We cannot teach what we do not know. Therefore, in order to "train up a child in the way he should go" we must first train ourselves!

How do we train ourselves? We do this by using the same book we use to train our children — the Bible! Therefore, let us get busy in reading and learning the truth for ourselves, so we can teach it to our children! Take down the Bible from the shelf. Read it, study it, and obey it. When your children see you doing this, it provides a model example for what they need to be doing, too. Do not just tell them to read the

Bible and obey its precepts; you do it, too. In teaching in this way, we are even more likely to keep our children faithful to God, and lead them in a way which will bring them to Heaven one day. Truly, we will then be able to say with Solomon: "Train up a child in the way he should go: even when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6)!!

### **Please visit with the Caneyville church of Christ....**



103 N Main St. Caneyville,  
Kentucky



(270) 589-4167



<http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>



### **Times of services...**

Sunday: 10:00 am  
(Bible classes for all ages)

10:45 am (Worship)

5:00 pm (Worship)

Wednesday: 7:00 pm  
(Bible classes for all ages)

### **Other opportunities for Bible study:**

- Correspondence Courses
- "The Ancient Landmark" Radio Program (99.9 FM – WXMZ at 10:30 AM & 101.5 FM WLBQ at 5:30 AM Monday-Friday)
- "The Ancient Landmark" ([www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994](http://www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994))

## **“To Train Up A Child, Train Yourself!”**

Jarrod Jacobs

**T**he book of Proverbs contains words of wisdom for all walks of life. Perhaps it is best known, though, for the words of wisdom to parents and children. The family is the cornerstone of any society, and so it is best for society when we have families intact and abiding by the word of God. Proverbs encourages this with reminders and admonitions to parents and children. In our study, let us study one proverb in particular and make some applications to ourselves. Proverbs 22:6 states the following: "Train up a child in the way he should go: even when he is old, he will not depart from it."

When we examine Proverbs 22:6 in detail, we see that this verse is not directed as much toward the children as this verse is directed toward parents! In order for a child to grow up knowing the "way he should go," there is a definite need for parents to be available and conscious of their responsibility to "train up" the children in the way they "should go"! Children cannot raise themselves. Solomon writes, "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother" (Prov. 29:15). Therefore, parents must be ready to do their duty as the teachers and trainers of these young ones.

The need for instruction and teaching children in the correct way to go is repeated in the New Testament. Let us read what the Ephesian fathers were told to do relative to the teaching of their children: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"

(Eph. 6:4). Again, we see emphasis placed upon the responsibility parents have for their children.

### **What Am I To Teach My Child?**

No child comes with a set of instructions tied around his neck or wrist. However, a set of instructions does exist to help in the training and teaching of our children; it is the Bible! The Bible will provide all the instruction necessary for leading a child (or an adult) from earth to Heaven. God's "*divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness*" (II Pet. 1:3). The Scriptures provide for these needs (II Tim. 3:16-17). "What am I to teach my child?" Let the Bible answer this question! A parent needs to teach his child ....

**God Is!** This is the most fundamental point of our study. In a society that wishes to push God aside, we need to train up our children with the understanding that God is! We cannot read four words in the Bible without reading about God (Gen. 1:1). From this point, and throughout every page of Scripture, we see the evidence of God. In addition to this, we can look in creation and see God's handiwork (Ps. 19:1). Our children need to realize that they answer to a power higher than any other (Isa. 40)! He is the one who holds our breath in His hands (Dan. 5:23b). He is eternal (Ex. 3:14; Ps. 90:2), He is holy (Ps. 111:9; Isa. 6:3), and He loves us (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8).

**We Have An Enemy In Satan.** In contrast to the God who loves us, there is an enemy, Satan, who hates us! Our children need to be taught that Satan is our "*adversary*" and goes about as a "*roaring lion ... seeking someone to devour*" (I Pet. 5:8). They need to be taught that he is a murderer from the beginning, and the father of lies (Jn. 8:44). Therefore, he does not love us. He is deceitful, and tries constantly to tempt man to sin and lead him away from the God who loves him. This has

been true since the beginning (Gen. 3:1-6), and it continues to this day! Even though our children start life innocent (Ezek. 18:20; Matt. 18:3), it is not long before Satan tries to appeal to them (as he appeals to all) through the lusts of the flesh and eyes and the pride of life (I Jn. 2:15-17). The reason he does this is in an attempt to get them to surrender to their lusts, and be tempted, so that they might sin before God and ultimately be lost in sin (Jas. 1:14-15; Rom. 6:23). Parents, make sure and teach your children that Satan is their enemy (I Pet. 5:8)!

**Our Sins Will Condemn Us.** Sin is not a joke, or a game. Sins condemn man to an eternity in Hell. Sadly, "*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Rom. 3:23). Therefore, all those who have sinned are subject to condemnation if the problem is not fixed. Our children need to be taught that sin will condemn. It will keep us out of Heaven if we are not forgiven (I Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8).

**There Is A Remedy For Sin.** How great it is to be able to teach our children that though sin exists, and every one of us sins at times, that God has provided a remedy for sin. This remedy is to be found in His Son, Jesus Christ! When Jesus came into this world, died upon the cross of Calvary, and resurrected the third day (I Cor. 15:1-3), He made it possible for man to be forgiven of sins (I Tim. 1:15). In fact, Jesus declared to Zacchaeus, "*The Son of man came to seek and to save the lost*" (Lk. 19:10). Therefore, let our children be taught that there is a remedy for sin, and the remedy is found in Christ and no other!

**I Must Accept God's Plan For Salvation.** When we understand that the remedy for sin exists, the next question must be, "How is it possible that I can obtain this forgiveness?" Our children need to be taught that there is an answer to this question. It is possible to obtain

forgiveness when we believe on Christ as the Son of God. Jesus said, "*Unless you believe that I am he, you will die in your sins*" (Jn. 8:24). Therefore, we need to believe that He is the son of God. Based upon that faith, it motivates us to repent of our sins. To repent means we turn away from our sins, so we can live a life that is pleasing to Christ. Our Lord said it this way: "*Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish*" (Lk. 13:3). This is how serious a matter repentance is! Further, we need to be a people willing to confess our faith in Christ. In so doing, we confess our faith in Christ as the Son of God, like Peter did (Matt. 16:16), and like the Ethiopian eunuch did (Acts 8:37). Based upon this confession, one can be baptized for the remission of sins (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). The apostle Peter wrote to Christians, reminding them, "*Baptism ... now saves you*" (I Pet. 3:21). If this is what the Bible teaches, then we need to be teaching our children to respect it, because through following God's plan for salvation, we can be made free from sin (Rom. 6:16-18; Col. 2:12-13)!

**There Is Only One Church.** In a world of religious confusion, as soon as we can teach our children about the one church that is found in the Bible, the better. When we read the Scriptures, we read of only one church, not thousands. This church, or called out body of people (I Pet. 2:9), is composed of Christians who have been added by God (Acts 2:47). This church was promised by Christ in Matthew 16:18. This church was the